

JOHN P. SARBANES
3RD DISTRICT, MARYLAND

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2003

www.sarbanes.house.gov

November 9, 2010

426 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
(202) 225-4016
FAX: (202) 225-9219

600 BALTIMORE AVENUE
SUITE 303
TOWSON, MD 21204
(410) 832-8890
FAX: (410) 832-8898

44 CALVERT STREET
SUITE 349
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401
(410) 295-1679
FAX: (410) 295-1682

The Honorable Lisa Jackson
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Jackson:

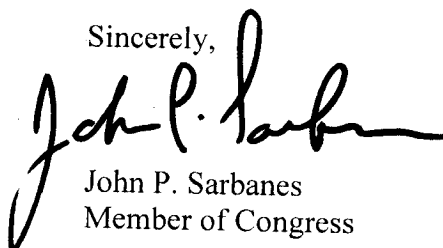
Thank you for your hard work and that of your staff in developing the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements. I strongly support the ambitious nutrient reduction goals and timeline you have set for implementation of this important Bay clean up initiative. I also want to draw your attention to legislation I recently introduced, the Save the Bay Homeowner Act of 2010 (H.R. 6382), which would allow the 17 million citizens of the Chesapeake Bay watershed to become citizen stewards of the Bay and give them an active role in restoring it. I hope you will include a similar approach in the final TMDL rule.

H.R. 6382 directs the EPA to develop a "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home" designation program that identifies various steps homeowners could voluntarily take around their property to reduce nutrient and sediment runoff and improve water quality in local streams and rivers that feed into the Bay. If a participating home meets certain standards, as developed by the EPA, that home could be designated a "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home." The bill further directs the EPA to give credit to states and local jurisdictions for nutrient and sediment level reduction based upon the number of homeowners that achieve the "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home" designation.

I would urge the Environmental Protection Agency to develop a "Save the Chesapeake Bay Home" designation program in the process of finalizing the Chesapeake Bay TMDL. As state and local governments look for tools to meet new nutrient reductions standards, programs like this can offer new innovative and cost effective ways to help communities meet these requirements. By engaging the millions of people living within the watershed to become citizen stewards of the streams and rivers in their community, we can make additional strides toward truly saving the Chesapeake Bay.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this important issue. Should your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact Jim Notter on my staff at (202) 225-4016 or jim.notter@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress